



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

NOTICE OF DECISION

July 29, 2008

Governor's Office, Mike Volesky; mvolesky@mt.gov
Environmental Quality Council, Maureen Theisen, mtheisen@mt.gov
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Tom Ellerhof, tellerhof@mt.gov
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Ricknold Thompson, rthompson@mt.gov
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
Montana Wildlife Federation; csharpe@mtwf.org
Montana Audubon; jellis@mtaudubon.org
Montana Environmental Information Center; meic@meic.org
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 1, jfraley@mt.gov
Lincoln County Environmental Health,
US Forest Service, Libby
Mike & Monica Owens
Jim Mayo, Yaak Rod & Gun, 2025 Longmeadow Rd., Troy, MT 59935

Ladies and Gentlemen:

FWP prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of amending Yaak Gun Club's existing shooting range development grant to include the drilling of a well. FWP intends to provide funding towards this project since the club's previous source of water is no longer available due to a fire that destroyed the well house. The amended draft EA was circulated for public comment for 28 days between April 1 and April 28, 2008. During this time FWP sent out a news release and published the draft on FWP's web site.

One favorable comment was received from the public. However, in consultation with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Lincoln County Environmental Health office, FWP felt it important to test the ground water for contaminants according to Ground Water Monitoring (ARMS 17.50.708) since the club is located on a former military base site. No previous extensive ground water testing had been conducted prior.

The Yaak Gun Club collected samples and contracted with Montana Environmental Laboratory LLC, Kalispell to conduct water tests. The results were then forwarded to FWP, who in consultation with DEQ found the water samples to be within the accepted drinking

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water standards except for iron, which is an aesthetic (taste and/or odor) standard not a human health standard.

Therefore, it is my decision to proceed with amending the Yaak Gun Club's Shooting Range grant as described in the EA and to include the drilling of a water well as part of the project.

Sincerely,

Thomas Baumeister
Education Bureau Chief